

Message Text

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TAGS: UN, AORG

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: FUNDING CONFERENCE COSTS

REF: USUN 2376

1. REFTEL REPORTS COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES CONCLUSION THAT PROVISION OF CONFERENCE SERVICES FINANCED BY UN REGULAR BUDGET TO AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS FUNDED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS WAS MATTER FOR FIFTH COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION. IT ALSO NOTES CUNNINGHAM'S POSITION IN COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES THAT FISCAL DATA ABOUT THIS PRACTICE WAS NEEDED.

2. CONFERENCE SERVICING IS RAPIDLY INCREASING IN VOLUME AND COST, AND, AS MISSION AWARE, U.S. UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT IN FIFTH COMMITTEE OF 32ND UNGA TO REDUCE THE RELEVANT ITEM
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(SECTION 23) IN THE 1978-79 REGULAR BUDGET ESTIMATES. ONE WAY OF PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHING THIS OBJECTIVE IS TO ASSURE THAT CONFERENCE SERVICES PROVIDED VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS ARE ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS. ACCORDINGLY WE HOPE SOVIETS WILL FOLLOW-UP ON THEIR PROPOSAL IN THE RECENT COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES SESSIONS BY SEEING TO IT THAT ISSUE IS RAISED IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE 33ND UNGA. WE SUGGEST

MISSION MAKE THIS VIEW KNOWN TO SOVIETS AND WEO'S AS APPROPRIATE.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE POSITION WE URGE THAT UN SECRETARIAT BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE DETAILED FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT TOTAL CONFERENCE SERVICES GIVEN VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS DURING 1977. WE WOULD PREFER THAT REQUEST FOR THIS DATA STEM FROM COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES OR SOVIETS, BUT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO US MAKING REQUEST IF MISSION BELIEVES IT BEST WAY TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION.

4. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL: IN LIGHT OF CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS, OPERATING COSTS AND SCARCITY OF RESOURCES WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT EFFECT OF SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH DUPLICATORY CONFERENCE SERVICE SECTIONS IN VARIOUS VOLUNTARY PROGRAM. ON THE OTHER HAND WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT PRESENT PRACTICE REPRESENTS HIDDEN TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUNDS IN UN REGULAR BUDGET. CHRISTOPHER

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